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AAC Fluoride Emission On Helena Agenda

Fluoride emissions at the Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant are on the agenda at the State Board of Health meeting in Helena Friday.

Also on the agenda is a variance request from the affiliated Anaconda Wire and Cable Co. plant seeking more time for compliance with smoke pollution controls.

At its May 21 meeting the Board of Health heard the proposal of Benjamin F. Wake, Helena director of air pollu-

tion control for the State Department of Health.

Wake proposed that effective June 30, 1972, the maximum fluoride emission at the AAC plant (Montana's only aluminum producer) be restricted to 864 pounds per day into the atmosphere.

AAC officials replied that no aluminum plant in the world could comply with this restriction and continue operating.

Present AAC fluoride emissions are considered 4,500 pounds per day down from 7,500. Proposed by AAC is continued reduction to 3,500 in 1971 and 2,500 in 1972.

Wake told the Montana Air Pollution Advisory Council June 30 that he felt the only acceptable change would be to extend compliance a year to June 30, 1973 instead of June 30, 1972.

The AAC stand is that the company is in process of reducing fluoride emissions, and that the best it can do is a 2,500 pound emission. This compares to about 3,800 pounds of fluoride per day when there were three potlines.

AAC would bring the fluoride emission considerably below what they were when there were three potlines.

AAC with a \$8,500,000 annual payroll presently employs 1,024 men at its Columbia Falls plant.